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SUBJECT Activation of the Second KVP Army

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. [redacted] the
Second Army (Armeegruppe Mitte) of the KVP was under activation in
the area of former Land Brandenburg.¹
2. Several organization headquarters charged with the activation of the
army, were allegedly formed at Dessau-Kochstedt, Brandenburg, Gross-
Glienicke, and Berlin-Niederschöenhausen. Source was unable to obtain
details and only learned that the staff of the organization headquarters at
Brandenburg, which totaled about 250 officers, NCOs and EM at the time of
observation who still wore blue uniforms, was scheduled to receive army
uniforms by 15 March. A secret headquarters in a villa in Niederschoen-
hausen consisted of a limited number of officers.¹
3. General Dr. Otto Korfes, who was captured by the Soviets in Stalingrad,
was mentioned as the commander in chief of the Second Army. Korfes, a
member of the NKFD, was repatriated to East Germany in 1946 and became a
leading member of the NDP. On 18 November 1952, he was recalled from his
previous position as head of the central archives of the DDR at the
Orangerie Castle in Potsdam and made a KVP general. After parti-
cipating in a 4-week special-instruction course of the SCC at Karlshorst,
he was detached to a 6-month special course at the Moscow Military Insti-
tute in late February or early March 1953.¹
4. In early March 1953, General Fenzke (fnu), was appointed temp-
orary commander in chief of the Second Army and assigned directly to Lieute-
nant General Heinz Hoffmann. General von Witzleben (fnu), was detached to
Fenzke as officer on special assignment and was charged with the billeting
of units of the Second Army in the Potsdam.
5. Intended posts of the Second Army identified prior to 13 March included
Potsdam with Krempnitz, Gross Glienicke, Eiche, Golm and Neditz; Branden-
burg including Hohenstuecken and Goerden; Torgau; and Dessau.¹

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6. A tank unit, which had the designation P 12, was allegedly under activation at Gross Glienicke. On 23 February 1953, source learned from a major of this unit that 35 T/34 tanks were stationed at the barracks installation and 22 T/34 tanks and 40 prime movers were expected to arrive during the next days. On 13 March, about 2,800 men were billeted in a settlement on the Pethenow road at Hohenstuecken. [] A mortar training battalion and an infantry unit were allegedly under activation at Goerden. The mortar training battalion, which was equipped with about 40 Soviet-made 82-mm mortars and approximately the same number of Soviet-made 160-mm mortars in mid-December 1952, was scheduled to move to Potsdam at a later date.² 25X1X

- 25X1X [] 7. Early March 1953, which had been fixed as target date for the activation of the Second Army, proved impracticable. One of the main bottlenecks was the supply of clothing. An order issued as early as the beginning of January 1953, therefore, prescribed that 90 percent of the personnel receive blue uniforms. Clothing in stock in the clothing stockroom, which was installed in the rooms of the former clothing stockroom of the former German 4th Cav Regt in the former Leibpferdehusaren Kaserne at Potsdam pursuant to an order of the HVVP of 21 January 1953, included only 750 pairs of leather boots for men; 280 pairs of leather boots for women; 2,700 complete sets of fabric clothing for men; 5,400 sets of underwear and stockings; 200 complete sets of fabric clothing for women; 200 olive drab women's skirts; 150 olive drab women's skitrousers; and 1,100 pairs of laced leather shoes for men. These supplies, which were to be issued to the units of the Second Army under activation, were not essentially increased by 20 February 1953.

- 25X1A 1. [] Comment. According to statements of deserters and other indications, two or three KVP Armeegruppen are being activated. A headquarters with the code designation [] may be the headquarters of the Armeegruppe Mitte. [] It appears doubtful that this Armeegruppe, which is referred to by source as Second Army, should be only in the area of former Land Brandenburg. It is also doubtful that General Dr. Korfes is intended to be appointed commander in chief of this army, since no other reports to this effect were received. General Penzke is mentioned for the first time. The barracks installations at Potsdam, Kramnitz, Eiche, Golm, and Nedlitz which are suitable as billets are still almost exclusively occupied by Soviet troops. No data indicating evacuation of these barracks installations by the Soviets are available.

- 25X1A 2. [] Comment. The Panzer Kaserne at Gr. Glienicke quarters the headquarters of a border alert force of the Ring um Berlin and a border police school. No other reports on the activation of a VP tank division in this installation were received. [] which is a cadre unit organized as a mechanized regiment, is stationed at Hohenstuecken. The indicated size of about 2,800 men largely agrees with the statements of deserters.

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